

Legislation Signals a Return to Fiscal Responsibility

Washington, DC - Today, Congressman Harry Teague applauded the House approval of H.R. 2920, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2009. The measure will turn PAYGO budget rules that have been in effect in the House since 2007 into law with enforceable consequences.

The bill requires Congress to offset revenue reductions or increases in entitlement spending with savings elsewhere in the budget. If the net effect of all legislation enacted during a session of Congress increased the deficit, there would be an across-the-board reduction in certain mandatory programs.

"PAYGO would force Congress to follow the same simple budget logic that New Mexico families follow in their own households and that I followed as a small businessman: You can't pay out more than you take in," said Congressman Harry Teague, an original co-sponsor of the bill. "If we are serious about rebuilding the American economy and reducing the deficit, Congress must get a handle on spending and commit to fiscal discipline."

Support of the PAYGO legislation is the most recent action Congressman Teague has taken in an effort to increase fiscal responsibility and to rein in wasteful spending. Congressman Harry Teague led the effort to successfully block the scheduled 2010 pay raise for Members of Congress, supports a measure to audit the Federal Reserve to increase transparency of government spending, and voted against the original House budget, which contained high levels of non-security discretionary spending.